

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, with deletions indicated by strikethrough or double brackets, and with insertions indicated by underlining. The following listing replaces all previous listings, and versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:

a door having a sill portion;

an anti-theft sill knob and cable assembly for the vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a tubular sheath for protectively surrounding a cable;

a housing attached to an upper end of said sheath for slidably retaining a sill knob therein, said housing being operatively attached to said sill portion and comprising a knob guide having a hollow chamber formed therein and comprising a floor portion with a hole formed therethrough, said knob guide having at least one wall attached to and extending away from said floor portion and cooperating with said floor portion to define said hollow chamber, said housing adapted to be fixedly and non-adjustably installed in a vehicle door;

a sill knob disposed within said knob guide for supporting a lock button thereon, said sill knob comprising a main body and a stud attached to said main body, said main body having a base portion, and being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein said main body is wider than said stud;

a cable slidably disposed within said sheath and having an upper end attached to said base portion of said sill knob for concurrent movement therewith, said cable

extending through the hole in the floor portion of said knob guide; and
a connector attached to a lower end of said cable opposite said sill knob;
wherein said housing and said sill knob are respectively configured so that said
sill knob is retained above the floor portion of said knob guide;
and wherein said housing further comprises a shield attached to and extending
upwardly from an upper portion of said knob guide for protectively shielding said sill
knob and for resisting unauthorized access thereto;
wherein the shield is configured to limit access to the sill knob when the sill knob
is in the locked position thereof.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises a collar which substantially surrounds a portion of said sill knob.
3. (Previously Presented) The sill knob and cable assembly of claim 2, wherein the collar is wider than, and has a different cross-sectional shape than the knob guide, and wherein the knob guide has smooth and substantially uninterrupted side walls.
4. (Original) The sill knob assembly of claim 2, wherein the housing further comprises a sill extending between said collar and said knob guide.
5. (Original) The sill knob assembly of claim 2, wherein the collar is substantially cylindrical.

6. (Previously Presented) The sill knob assembly of claim 1, wherein the knob guide comprises a substantially rectangular box shape having smooth and substantially uninterrupted side walls.

7. (Previously Presented) In a vehicle of the type having a door with a sill portion, the improvement comprising an anti-theft sill knob and cable assembly in the vehicle, the assembly comprising:

a sill knob for supporting a lock button and for connecting to a locking mechanism, the sill knob comprising a main body and a stud attached to the main body and having male threads formed externally thereon for supporting a lock button;

a hollow tubular sheath;

a cable slidably disposed within said sheath and having an upper end which is operatively attached to said sill knob;

a housing attached to an upper end of said sheath, said housing comprising:

a knob guide at one end thereof with a chamber formed therein, said knob guide having a floor portion with a hole formed therein;

a collar attached to the knob guide for protectively shielding part of the sill knob, the collar being wider than the knob guide, and

a sill extending between the collar and the top of the knob guide and defining a ledge on an upper surface thereof; whereby the ledge discourages the insertion of a tool into the chamber;

wherein said housing and said sill knob are respectively configured so that said sill knob is retained above the floor portion of said knob guide.

8. (Original) The anti-theft sill knob assembly of claim 7, wherein the collar has a circular cross section.

9. (Original) The anti-theft sill knob assembly of claim 7, wherein the knob guide has a rectangular cross section.

10. (Currently Amended) In a vehicle of the type having a door with a sill portion, a sill knob and cable assembly attached to the sill portion of the door and having a tubular sheath, a cable slidably disposed in the sheath, a sill knob attached to an upper end of the cable, and a hollow housing attached to an upper end of the sheath for slidably containing the sill knob, the improvement comprising:

a shield integrally attached to the housing for limiting unauthorized access to the sill knob,

a floor provided as part of said hollow housing to retain the sill knob thereabove, and

said sill knob comprising a main body having a first width and a stud attached to the main body and having male threads formed externally thereon for supporting a lock button, wherein said stud has a second width which is narrower than the width of the main body.

11. (Original) The improved sill knob and cable assembly of claim 10, wherein the shield comprises a collar for protectively surrounding the sill knob when said sill knob is in a lowered position.

12. (Original) The improved sill knob and cable assembly of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises a substantially rectangular box shape, and wherein said collar is substantially cylindrical.

13. (Currently Amended) In a vehicle having a door, a door frame, a door sill and a sill knob and cable assembly, a sill knob housing for use as a component of the sill knob and cable assembly, said housing comprising a knob guide, a shield and a ledge which integrally connects said shield to said knob guide, said housing ~~adapted to be~~ being fixedly and non-adjustably installed in ~~the~~ the vehicle door;

said knob guide comprising a floor extending with a hole formed therethrough, and a chamber portion extending upwardly from said floor and comprising at least one wall for surrounding a base portion of a sill knob; and

wherein said shield extends upwardly from said ledge, said shield being wider than said knob guide such that said ledge extends therebetween, and wherein the knob guide is configured to retain the sill knob above the floor thereof.

14. (Original) The housing of claim 13, wherein said shield comprises a substantially cylindrical collar.

15. (Original) The housing of claim 13, wherein the knob guide has a rectangular cross section.

16 (Currently Amended) In a vehicle of the type having a door including a sill portion, the improvement comprising an anti-theft sill knob and cable assembly comprising:

a tubular sheath for protectively surrounding the cable;

a housing attached to an upper end of said sheath for slidably retaining a sill knob therein, said housing comprising a knob guide having a hollow chamber formed therein and comprising a floor portion with a hole formed therethrough, said knob guide having at least one wall attached to and extending away from said floor portion and cooperating with said floor portion to define said hollow chamber, said housing adapted to be fixed and non-adjustably installed in a vehicle door;

a sill knob disposed within said knob guide comprising a main body having a first width and a stud attached to the main body, said stud having a second width that is narrower than the width of the main body, wherein said stud is provided for supporting a lock button thereon, said sill knob being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein the knob guide is configured to retain the sill knob above the floor portion thereof;

a cable slidably disposed within said sheath and having an upper end attached to said sill knob for concurrent movement therewith, said cable extending through the hole in the floor portion of said knob guide; and

a connector attached to a lower end of said cable opposite said sill knob;

wherein said housing further comprises a shield attached to and extending upwardly from an upper portion of said knob guide for protectively shielding said sill knob and for resisting unauthorized access thereto;

wherein the shield is configured to limit access to the sill knob from outside of the vehicle, when the sill knob is in the locked position thereof.